

REMARKS

Reconsideration is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1-30 were previously canceled. Claims 31, 34, 36, 39 and 43 are amended. Claims 32-33, 35, 37-38, 40-42 and 44-47 are canceled herein without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 31, 34, 36, 39 and 43 are pending.

I. Claim amendments

Claims 31 and 39 now recite that the print control parameters include information on a file format of the image data. This language is supported by the original disclosure, for example page 18, lines 10-13 and Figures 3, 5, 6, 9-11, etc.

Claims 32-33, 35, 37-38, 40-42 and 44-47 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer in order to advance prosecution.

Claims 34 and 43 are amended to place them into better form.

Claim 36 is amended to depend from claim 31.

No new matter has been added.

II. Claim rejections

Claims 31-33, 35, 39, 40, 42 and 44 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by US 5105284 to Sakata et al. (Sakata).

In addition, claims 34, 41 and 43 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sakata in view of US 4719516 to Nagashima.

In addition, claims 36-38 and 45-47 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sakata in view of US 5923437 to Itoh.

Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Sakata does not disclose or teach print control parameters that include information on the file format of the image data stored in a removable storage medium, as recited in claims 31 and 39. Although Sakata does appear to disclose storing image data with operation procedure program in a removable storage medium, Sakata does not disclose that the operation procedure program includes information on a file format of the image data.

For at least this reason, Sakata does not anticipate claim 31 or claim 39.

In rejecting claim 36, 38, 45 and 46, the Examiner suggests that Itoh discloses an image processing apparatus wherein information on functions of a printing means is stored into a removable storage medium. Without conceding the propriety of this position of the Examiner, Itoh does not disclose that information on a file format of the image data is included in the information on functions of the printing means. In column 5, lines 25-32, Itoh discloses that the external storage device 902 stores the output modes with the image file. The output modes, however, include the number of output copies, the number of output pages, output paper size, double-sided output, sorting and stapling. Therefore, the output modes disclosed by Itoh are different from information on a file format of the image data as recited in claims 31 and 39.

Nagashima is likewise silent about print control parameters that include information on the file format of the image data.

Claims 31 and 39 are patentable over Sakata, Nagashima and Itoh, singly or in combination. Claims 34, 36, and 43 depend from claims 31 or 39 and are patentable along with claims 31 and 39 and need not be separately distinguished. Applicant does not concede the propriety of the rejection to claims 34, 36 and 43 and reserves the right to file arguments at a later date specifically addressing these claims.

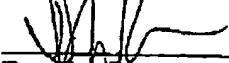
VII. Conclusion

Favorable reconsideration in the form of a Notice of Allowance is requested. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas P. Mueller
Reg. No.: 30,300
Hamre, Schumann, Mueller & Larson, P.C.
225 South Sixth Street
Suite 2650
Minneapolis, MN 55402
612-455-3800

Date: August 24, 2005


Douglas P. Mueller
Reg. No. 30,300
DPM/jal